

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

## INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Polish Merchant Navy Morale

PLACE  
ACQUIRED

DATE OF

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

50X1-HUM

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1. There is at present considerable dissatisfaction among the officers and men of the Polish Merchant Marine because of the unsatisfactory terms of service now obtaining. The Executive Committee of the Merchant Seamen's Union was recently required to vote for and "pass unanimously" a new scheme of payment which adversely affects the position of Merchant Service personnel visiting foreign countries. A chief engineer, for example, is now allowed not more than 30 dollars a month, the rest of his pay being 35,000 zloty, which is of little value to him and is unacceptable in any foreign country. The newly voted measure has resulted recently in mass desertions from Polish ships in foreign ports (e.g. from the MS Sobieski [redacted]).
2. The standard of honesty prevailing among Polish crews has lowered considerably, and black marketing is very widespread.

50X1-HUM

Document No.

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Auth:

Date: MAY 23 1978

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